(i) Procedural delays in acquisition of sites for installation of navigational aids in far-flug areas spread over 50—250 kms.

(ii) Delay in commencement of construction of the technical buildings and the control tower at Mumbai due to prolonged monsoon in 1993 and heavy leakage of Tulsi Pipe Line (Bombay Municipal Corporation).

(iii) Addition of Future Air Navigation System (FANS) enhancement.

(iv) After installation of radar, the equipment vendor had to carry out modifications to meet AAI specifications.

(v) During installation of equipment, the contractor had to export unserviceable components and re-import them after repairs.

The budgeted cost was raised from Rs. 210 crores to Rs. 423 crores approximately due to increase in scope of works.

Non Directional Beacon (NDB) at Cochin, Tura, Lengpui and Kargil, Instrument Landing System (ILS) at Jaipur and Calcutta, Very High Frequency (VHF) Receivers at international airports and Radar at Nagpur have been provided during 1999. The installation of Radar at Nagpur has been delayed due to finalisation of award. The other works are progressing as per schedule.

Benefits to NRIs by investment in Telecommunications

5352. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called upon the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to avail the benefit of new opportunities of investment in the telecommunication centres; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) With the announcement of New Telecom Policy, 1999, Telecom Service Sector offers enormous investment opportunities for investors including NRIs, within the sectoral guidelines, which permit upto 49% foreign equity including NRI equity. In the areas of telecom equipment manufacturing, 100% foreign equity is allowed. However, there is no specific policy for NRIs for making investment in the Telecom Sector.